Obadiah
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Obadiah

Chapter 1

The prophecy of Obadiah. We have received tidings from G OD, And an envoy has been sent out among the nations: “Up! Let us rise up against her for battle.” Thus said the Sovereign G OD concerning Edom:
I will make you least among nations, You shall be most despised.
Your arrogant heart has seduced you, You who dwell in clefts of the rock, In your lofty abode. You think in your heart, “Who can pull me down to earth?”
Should you nest as high as the eagle, Should your eyrie be lodged ’mong the stars, Even from there I will pull you down —declares G OD.
If thieves were to come to you, Marauders by night, They would steal no more than they needed. If vintagers came to you, They would surely leave some gleanings. How utterly you are destroyed!
How thoroughly rifled is Esau, a Esau I.e., the Edomites, descendants of Jacob’s twin brother; cf. Gen. 36.1. How ransacked his hoards!
All your allies turned you back At the frontier; Your own confederates Have duped and overcome you; [Those who ate] your bread Have planted snares under you. He is bereft of understanding.
In that day —declares G OD — I will make the wise vanish from Edom, Understanding from Esau’s mount.
Your warriors shall lose heart, O Teman, And no one on Esau’s mount Shall survive the slaughter.
For the outrage to your brother Jacob, Disgrace shall engulf you, And you shall perish forever.
On that day when you stood aloof, When aliens carried off his goods, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem, You were as one of them.
How could you b How could you Lit. “Do not,” and so through v. 14. gaze with glee On your brother that day, On his day of calamity! How could you gloat Over the people of Judah On that day of ruin! How could you loudly jeer On a day of anguish!
How could you enter the gate of My people On its day of disaster, Gaze in glee with the others On its misfortune On its day of disaster, And lay hands on its wealth On its day of disaster!
How could you stand at the passes c passes Meaning of Heb. uncertain. To cut down its fugitives! How could you betray those who fled On that day of anguish!
As you did, so shall it be done to you; Your conduct shall be requited.
Yea, against all nations The day of G OD is at hand.
That same cup that you d you I.e., the Israelites. drank on My Holy Mount Shall all nations drink evermore, e evermore Emendation yields “at My hand,” cf. Isa. 51.17; Jer. 25.15; Ps. 75.9. Drink till their speech grows thick, And they become as though they had never been.
But on Zion’s mount a remnant shall survive, And it shall be holy. f holy I.e., inviolate; cf. Jer. 2.3. The House of Jacob shall dispossess Those who dispossessed them.

The House of Jacob shall be fire, And the House of Joseph flame, And the House of Esau shall be straw; They shall burn it and devour it, And no survivor shall be left of the House of Esau —for G OD has spoken.
g Meaning of parts of vv. 19–21 uncertain. Thus they shall possess the Negeb and Mount Esau as well, the Shephelah and Philistia. They shall possess the Ephraimite country and the district of Samaria, h district of Samaria After the exile of the northern tribes, the city and district of Samaria were occupied mainly by non-Israelites. and Benjamin i Benjamin Emendation yields "the land of the Ammonites." along with Gilead.
And that exiled force of Israelites [shall possess] what belongs to the Phoenicians as far as Zarephath, j Zarephath A town in southern Phoenicia; see 1 Kings 17.9. while the Jerusalemite exile community of Sepharad k Sepharad Probably Asia Minor, called Saparda in Persian cuneiform inscriptions. shall possess the towns of the Negeb.
For liberators shall march up l liberators shall march up Several ancient versions read "they [the exiles from Jerusalem named in the preceding verse] shall march up victorious." on Mount Zion to wreak judgment on Mount Esau; and dominion shall be G OD 's.